



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP 12 2005

Charles A. Corcoran  
Executive Director  
City of Olean Housing Authority  
P.O. Box 438  
Olean, New York 14760

Dear Mr. Corcoran:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received Ms. Spencer's letter of September 2, 2005, submitting a copy of the "Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment" for the City of Olean, New York, HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing - Comprehensive Grant Program. The purpose of the project is to improve the appearance and function of the low income housing operated by the City of Olean Housing Authority.

We encourage the City of Olean to utilize landscaping methods that will minimize the growth of invasive plant species, and maximize the use of native plants. Invasive plants create a host of harmful environmental effects to native ecosystems including: displace native plants, degrade or eliminate habitat and forage for wildlife, threaten endangered species, impact recreation, affect fire frequency, alter soil properties, decrease biodiversity, and more.

Information on landscaping with native plants in the Great Lakes area can be found at an EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/navland.html>. Also, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has a website for landscaping with natives that is appropriate for the Olean area at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/wildplant/native.aspx>.

We also encourage the use of resource efficient equipment, methods, and materials including: the installation of Energy Star products (see <http://www.energystar.gov>), implementation of water conservation measures (see <http://www.epa.gov/seahome/watcon.html>), and use of green building resources (see <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/greenbuilding/resources.htm>) as appropriate. We hope you find this information helpful and appreciate your interest in the environment.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Grace Musumeci", is written over a horizontal line.

Grace Musumeci, Chief  
Environmental Review Section  
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch

cc: Kathleen S. Spencer, Project Manager  
Stuart I. Brown Associates, Inc.